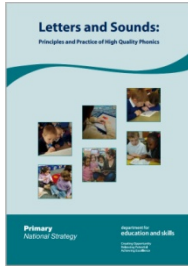


## Phonics at Lower Park School



At Lower Park School we follow the Letters and Sounds phonics resource published by the Department for Education and Skills in 2007. It aims to build children's speaking and listening skills in their own right as well as to prepare children for learning to read by developing their phonic knowledge and skills. It sets out a detailed and systematic programme for teaching phonic skills for children starting by the age of five, with the aim of them becoming fluent readers by age seven.

Phonics at Lower Park School is fun and child centred; we use the Jolly Phonics songs to support learning the sounds with action rhymes. We also use other resources to support the multi sensory teaching of phonics such as Espresso Education and Twinkl. However the fundamental skills are those found in Letters and Sounds.

The sounds are taught in a specific order (not alphabetically). This enables children to begin building words as early as possible.

The children are placed in carefully selected groups to suit their reading ability. These sets are carefully differentiated to meet the specific needs of the children, whilst also ensuring fluidity in moving those children who are making rapid progress.

The skills taught in phonics at Lower Park:

1. Learning the letter sounds

Children learn the 42 main letter sounds. This includes alphabet sounds as well as digraphs such as sh, th, ai and ue.

2. Learning letter formation

Using different multi-sensory methods, children are taught how to form and write the letters.

3. Blending

Children learn how to blend the sounds together to read and write new words.

4. Identifying the sounds in words (Segmenting)

Listening for the sounds in words gives children the best start for learning spelling.

5. Tricky words

Tricky words have irregular spellings and children learn these separately within the phonics sessions.

Alongside the high quality teaching of phonics we have a book banded reading scheme that supports the progression of phonics with home, school reading. The children also have phonics homework which is sent home weekly in their phonics homework book.

## Suggested Websites

BBC – there are a number of resources available through the BBC website, for example:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks1/literacy/phonics/play/>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/wordsandpictures/index.shtml>

Family Learning:

[http://www.familylearning.org.uk/phonics\\_games.html](http://www.familylearning.org.uk/phonics_games.html)

Phonics Play – although this is a subscription website there are some games available for free.

<http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/>

ICT games

<http://www.ictgames.com/literacy.html>

Letters and Sounds – we use this website in school for resources and games. There are useful online games accessible via this website for example:

<http://www.letters-and-sounds.com>

## Suggested Apps for iPad

There are a large number of apps available, both for free and at a small cost. Such as:

Mr Thorne does Phonics (various at £1.49 – £2.99)

ABC Pocket Phonics (free)

Twinkl phonics (various free up to £4.99)

## Year 1 Phonics Screening Check

The statutory Year 1 Phonics Screening Check will take place during the **week commencing 13th June 2016**. Please ensure that your child is in school during this week.

The check is a list of 40 words which children will read one -to-one with their class teacher. It will assess phonics skills and knowledge learned through Reception and Year 1.

It will check that your child can:

- Sound out and blend graphemes in order to read simple words e.g. n-igh-t
- Read phonically decodable one-syllable and two-syllable words, e.g. cat, sand, windmill.
- Read a selection of nonsense words which are referred to as 'pseudo words'.